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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The transmission equipment according to claim 4,

wherein the switch board, the plurality of interface boards, and dedicated interface boards are respectively inserted to slots mounted on a shelf frame so as to interconnect mutually through a backboard provided on the shelf frame.

3. (Previously Presented) The transmission equipment according to claim 4,

wherein the packet conforms to either IP (Internet Protocol), ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) or Frame Relay.

4. (Currently Amended)

Transmission equipment comprising:

a switch board having a cross-connect portion for making a multiplexed packet signal to branch to predetermined paths;

a plurality of interface boards having a path on which a multiplexed signal is transmitted and connected to ~~for interfacing the cross-connect portion with a multiplexed signal being transmitted on a path;~~ and

a plurality of dedicated interface boards connected to the cross-connect portion, each having a path switch function, which demultiplexes the transmitted multiplexed packet signal to demultiplexed packets and routes each of the demultiplexed packets to a predetermined path,

wherein each of the plurality of dedicated interface boards includes an extension interface so that a packet to be directed to a path accommodated in a first of the plurality of dedicated interface boards is routed to a predetermined path in the first dedicated interface board, and that a packet to be directed to a path not accommodated in the first dedicated interface board is routed to another dedicated interface board accommodating the path concerned through the extension interface.

5. (Previously Presented) The transmission equipment according to claim 4, wherein the dedicated interface boards each having the path switch function of routing the demultiplexed packets to a predetermined path is configured to have a working side and a protection side, so that a same demultiplexed packet is transferred to both the working side and the protection side of the dedicated interface board by a 1:2 connection function of a cross-connect portion in the switch board, when a multiplexed signal is transferred from the interface board to the dedicated interface board having the path switch function.

6. (Previously Presented) The transmission equipment according to claim 5, wherein when a packet signal is transferred from either the working side or protection side of the dedicated interface board to the switch board, the packet signal from either the working side or the protection side of the dedicated interface board is connected to the cross-connect portion, by a 2:1 selector in the switch board.